

tory of the ages-old practice of blood-letting and its modern application in the light of present day knowledge. Varying from the height of popularity to the depth of unpopularity, venesection has touched both extremes several times during the years covered by written history. Its value to medical science must lie somewhere between these extremes, and we believe Prof. Stern has rendered a good service to present day therapeutics by again bringing to our notice this valuable remedy and its indications. The technic is simple and easily acquired. The field of application is limited to certain diseases of the respiratory, circulatory and urinary systems, and, secondarily to the nervous system. In addition, this very useful procedure is described in its application to eclampsia and various poisonings. The value of this brochure seems to lie in its message to the present day practitioner that this ancient and much abused means of relieving human ailments has not lost its potency for good even though its field has been much restricted.

Professor Stern's work, though evidently written by an enthusiast, contains a great deal of interesting, if not practically useful, material and shows a careful and comprehensive study of literature, both lay and medical.

G. H. T.

LUSK ON NUTRITION.

The Yale Press has now in active preparation "The Fundamental Basis of Nutrition" by Graham Lusk. In this concise and readable manual Dr. Lusk discusses the historical study of nutrition and modern investigation in that field. He includes very important statistics showing how men in different occupations should be variously nourished and how the maximum number of proteins may be obtained at a minimum cost. The whole presents the principles of nutrition which our generation has done so much to discover and in a form to benefit the layman. As the author says: "It seems as though mankind had a right to a knowledge of the value of the foods which a bountiful Nature has provided for his use. Even among educated persons one may hear the grossest errors of judgment regarding the nutritive value of a hen's egg and few of those who eat in restaurants realize that the greater quota of nourishment which is brought to them lies not in the specific dish served but in the bread and butter which ostensibly is presented as a gift."

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY AND CHEMISTRY.

Edited by FRED I. LACKENBACH.

(This Department will be pleased to supply information concerning products passed or rejected by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the A. M. A., or submit queries to the Council when information is not available.)

Since publication of New and Nonofficial Remedies, 1914, and in addition to those previously reported, the following articles have been accepted by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the American Medical Association for inclusion with "New and Nonofficial Remedies":

SODIUM BIPHOSPHATE, Squibb.—This non-proprietary form of sodium acid phosphate has been accepted for inclusion with New and Nonofficial Remedies. E. R. Squibb & Sons, New York (Jour. A. M. A., May 2, 1914, p. 1401).

NORMAL HORSE SERUM with Chloroform as a Preservative.—Marketed in vials, each con-

taining 50 Cc. H. M. Alexander & Co., Marietta, Pa.

NORMAL HORSE SERUM without Preservative.—Marketed in vials, each containing 50 Cc. H. M. Alexander & Co., Marietta, Pa. (Jour. A. M. A., May 2, 1914, p. 1401).

EREPTON.—A meat product consisting largely of the amino-acids produced by the digestion of meat. Erepton is said to be useful in cases in which it is necessary to substitute a perfectly digested food for the product of natural digestion in cases of gastric or intestinal indigestion and for the purposes of rectal alimentation. Farbwerke-Hoechst Co., New York (Jour. A. M. A., May 16, 1914, p. 1559).

ACNE SEROBACTERIN, MULFORD. This is a sensitized acne vaccine. H. K. Mulford Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

COLI SEROBACTERIN, MULFORD.—This is a sensitized coli vaccine. H. K. Mulford Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

NEISSER SEROBACTERIN, MULFORD.—This is a sensitized gonococcic vaccine. H. K. Mulford Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

PNEUMO SEROBACTERIN, MULFORD.—This is a sensitized pneumococcic vaccine. H. K. Mulford Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

STAPHYLO-ACNE SEROBACTERIN, MULFORD.—This is a sensitized staphylo acne vaccine. H. K. Mulford Co., Philadelphia, Pa. (Jour. A. M. A., May 16, 1914, p. 1559).

NEW BORNYVAL.—New bornyval is borneol isovaleryl glycolate, the isovaleryl glycolic acid ester of borneol. Being more resistant to the gastric fluids than bornyval, it passes the stomach unchanged and is said therefore to be less irritating than bornyval. Its properties are similar to those of bornyval and other valerian preparations. New bornyval is an almost tasteless and odorless liquid, insoluble in water. It is sold also in the form of Bornyval Pearls, each containing 4 minims of New Bornyval. Riedel & Co., New York (Jour. A. M. A., May 23, 1914, p. 1637).

LIQUID PETROLEUM OR "RUSSIAN MINERAL OIL".—A report of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry points out that petroleum oil was used as a medicine by the ancients and that the product "liquid petrolatum" is now on the market under a host of proprietary names and is official in most pharmacopoeias. It was at one time used in the treatment of tuberculosis and as an adulterant of fats and oils on the assumption that it was assimilable. It is now known to pass the system unchanged and has recently been highly lauded as a particularly harmless laxative in the treatment of habitual constipation. As the U. S. P. definition of liquid petrolatum permits the use of rather widely varying products and as there is some difference of opinion whether a light or a heavy oil is preferable, the Council recommends that physicians desiring the water white, non-fluorescent (Russian) mineral oil use the term *petrolatum grave* or *paraffinum liquidum*, B. P. if the heavy product preferred by Sir F. Arbuthnot Lane is desired; and *petrolatum liquidum laeve* if the light variety is desired (Jour. A. M. A., May 30, 1914, p. 1742).

ANTIMENINGITIS SERUM.—The untoward or fatal effects sometimes following the use of antimeningitis serum are probably due to the toxic action of the preservative contained in it or to increased intracranial tension due to its administration. The technic of its employment should be improved rather than its use abandoned. The dangers which may arise from its use are not to be feared as much as the disease itself (Jour. A. M. A., May 23, 1914, p. 1661).

PITUITARY EXTRACT.—The use of pituitary

extract as an oxytoxic must be considered in the experimental stage. A large number of cases have been reported in which untoward effects from the use of various pituitary extracts (including pituitrin) were obtained (Jour. A. M. A., May 2, 1914, p. 1420).

PANCREATIN.—Long and Huhleman report that mere traces of hydrochloric acid will destroy the ptyalin of pancreatin, that pancreatin of commerce—which often is not pancreatin but merely the dried pancreas gland—is practically devoid of lipase, the fat digesting ferment, and that its tryptic ferment is likely to be destroyed by the action of the pepsin and hydrochloric acid during its passage through the stomach (Arch. Int. Med., Feb., 1914, p. 314).

VALENTINE'S MEAT JUICE.—Four years ago an examination by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry showed that Valentine's Meat Juice was not a meat juice, but had the character of a meat extract instead, while on the basis of the claim that it was a meat juice extravagant assertions as to its nutritive value were made. The product being a meat extract, was practically devoid of nutrient qualities. As Valentine's Meat Juice is still widely advertised the Council deemed a re-examination important. This re-examination shows that in general it has the composition now as then, and that the same unwarranted claims are still made for it (Jour. A. M. A., May 2, 1914, p. 1419).

BROMIDIA (Battle & Co.).—A report of the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry points out that while the name suggests bromid, Bromidia is essentially a chloral preparation. This nostrum illustrates the need of the Council's rule under which recognition is refused to pharmaceutical mixtures whose name does not indicate their most potent ingredients. While the chloral content of Bromidia has been given considerable publicity, yet the preparation is used both by physicians and by the public, without due consideration of its potent ingredient, as attested by the fatal results and the habit-formation which have resulted from its use. The Bromidia advertising propaganda first admits the presence of chloral, then it is argued that in Bromidia the evil effects of chloral are eliminated and in the end the impression is left that Bromidia is practically innocuous and may be given even in cases of typhoid and to children (Jour. A. M. A., May 16, 1914, p. 1573).

THIOL RE-ADMITTED TO N. N. R.—In 1913 the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry directed the deletion from New and Nonofficial Remedies of Thiocol and Syrup Thiocol, Roche, because a preparation called Sirolin, containing Thiocol as its effective component and practically the same as Syrup Thiocol, Roche, was being advertised to the public. The Hoffman-LaRoche Chemical Works having furnished assurance that the public exploitation of Sirolin has been discontinued, the Council voted that Thiocol and Syrup Thiocol, Roche, be restored to New and Nonofficial Remedies (Jour. A. M. A., May 23, 1914, p. 1637).

IN ERRATA.

On page 128 (March issue) under New Members, A. B. Kern should be W. B. Kern.

On page 218 (May issue) under New Members, Emil C. Block should read Emil C. Black.

DR. VAUGHN IN SAN FRANCISCO.

In the early part of June, Dr. Victor Vaughn, President-elect of the A. M. A., visited San Francisco for a few days. It was the desire of the Directors of the County Society to entertain him at a dinner, but his stay was too short to make it possible. If the A. M. A. meets in San Francisco

in 1915 we will have the pleasure of a longer visit from this distinguished physician and most polished gentleman.

GRADUATE MEDICAL WORK.

Stanford University Medical School announces a series of medical courses for the summer months, from July 6th to August 16th, which should be attractive to those desiring to take a little post-graduate study. Most of the classes are limited in number and if any are interested they should address Dr. W. W. Boardman, Lane Hospital, San Francisco, at an early date.

DIRECTOR CHOSEN FOR HOOPER FOUNDATION.

The Medical Department of the University of California announces that Dr. George H. Whipple has been appointed Director of the George Williams Hooper Institute of Medical Research. Dr. Whipple is at present Associate Professor of Pathology in the Johns Hopkins Medical School, where he has been closely associated with the master-pathologist, William H. Welch, and where he has, for some years, been the active head of the department. His recent work upon the isolated intestinal loop in the explanation of the symptoms of intestinal obstruction has given a fresh impetus to the investigation of this subject.

The assumption of his duties by Dr. Whipple will be, to the Medical Department of the University of California, one step nearer the ideal toward which it is so conscientiously striving.

A. M. A. CHEMICAL LABORATORY REPORTS.

The report for the last year has just been issued and shows what a remarkably valuable work the Association is doing through its chemical laboratory. Every encouragement should be given to those who are doing this work and its value should be more widely known. Copies of the report may be had by addressing the Association, 535 North Dearborn St., Chicago; the price is twenty-five cents.

WORTHY OF PATRONAGE.

If firms in distant sections of the country advertise goods in the Journal which our readers need and which cannot be purchased at home, it is good business policy to buy from these advertisers. The fact that we admit these advertisers to our columns is proof they have been investigated and are believed to be worthy of your patronage.

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California welcomes the people who spend their money in this State. Our Eastern advertisers spend their money here. It is a duty we owe them to reciprocate by buying from them, instead of non-advertisers.

WE STAND BEHIND YOU.

The firm that does not advertise its goods to you does not feel under obligation to sell you what you order. Any substitute will do as well; because he is not on record in print, as the advertiser it, to sell you the thing that was advertised. It pays to buy the advertised article. You always have a recourse, if wrong goods are shipped you.

CLEANING OUT FRAUDS.

When this Journal started in 1902 and announced that it was going to fight fraudulent and patent medicine advertising, everybody laughed and some swore. Three years later the A. M. A. started the